(c) the norms for declaration of dangerous situation in a mine or mining area for rising water level and the consequent withdrawal of workmen from the mine; and

(d) what action was taken in accordance with such norms in the event of water level rising to nearly 500 mm in the Gaslitand mine area of BCCL in Dhanbad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) From time to time., instructions are issued by Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) indicating precautions (including construction of embankments, if required) to be taken to avert flooding in coal mines where danger of inundation is apprehended. The instructions vary from mine to mine. These generally include, inter-alia, construction and maintenance of embankment if required, framing of standing orders incorporating fixation of withdrawal level and danger level/ warning level of water in nullah/jore/ rivulet etc., checking of vulnerable points of surface, posting of guards to watch level of water in Nullah/jore/rivulet etc., to communicate the danger to various authorised persons.

(c) According to DGMS, in case the postible entry point of water into the mine is less than 1.5 m, above Highest Flood Level (HFL) in case of rivulets, (and 3.0 m. in cases of small river), embankments are to be proviced between the river and the entry points. In such cases withdrawal level is fixed generally 1 m.—2 m. below HFL) and danger mark 0.5 m.—1.5 m. further below depending open various parameters. Dangerous situation in mines or mining area arises when water level reaches danger mark in the river or rivulet and person are to be withdrawn as soon as water reaches the withdrawal level.

(d) A Court of Inquiry to look into the causes and circumstances attending the accident has been constituted by Government.

Setting up of occupational Disease Centres

78. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Occupational disease Centres set up by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation in the country and the amount spent on these centres during the last two years;

(b) the total number of workers covered under the ESI scheme for health insurance and other integrated social security benefits; and

(c) whether Government is contemplating to set up more such centres and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The E.S.I. Corporation has set up four Occupational Disease Centres in different parts of the country. The amount spent on these centres during the last two years was Rs. 2433.40 lakh.

(b) As on 31.3.1995, there were 67.96 lakh employees covered for various benefits under the ESI Scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

Export of Rice by FCI

79. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of rice exported by FCI during 1995-96 country-wise and the export price in each case;

(b) whether the prevailing international export price for the Indian rice was fixed before entering into agreements;

(c) whether FCI virtually lost several hundred crores of rupees on account of not selling rice at the internationally competitive prices;

(d) whether the Board of Directors has approved all the deals; and

(e) if not, the steps taken against the officials responsible for undertaking agreements irresponsibly?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) the Food Corporation of India has not directly exported any rice from the Central Pool during the year 1995-96.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Pension to Widows of Super Bazar Employees

80. SHRI DIPLIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that widows of erstwhile employees working under the jurisdiction of General Manager, Super Bazar have been denied pension;

(b) whether representations have been pending for expediting the accumulated amount of pension to their next of kin;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the measures being taken to release the amount of pension; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): (a) No, Sir. It has been reported by Super Bazar that they contribute to the employees Pension Scheme under the Provident Fund Act and the benefits are payable to the employees by the Office of the Commisioner of provident Fund and not by Super Bazar.

(b) It has been reported by the Super Bazar that no representation regarding pension of any employee or his/her kin is pending.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Chinese Cooperation in Coal Sector

81. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chinese Government has offered to provide India their technology for mechanised long wall mining, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 14th November, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether our Study Team which visited China in 1994 has carefully studied/understood the Chinese long wall and hard roof management technology and its usefulness in our country; and

(d) whether China's delegation has also agreed to visit India for giving another boost to the developing Sino-Indian Cooperation in Coal mining technologies and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Two powered support longwall systems have been received by Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) from China and Coal India Limited have signed agreements with China national Coal Mining Engineering Equipment Group Corporation for supply of four mechanised longwall sets for installation in four different mines of South Eastern Coalfields Limited.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

Bungling in Food Corporation of India

82. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of improper accounting, shoddy phsicial verification of stocks, misappropriation of grains enroute, misappropriation of foodgrains by FCI officials are pending enquiry as on 31st October, 1995 in Food Corporation of India;

(b) what is the total amount of rupees involved in each category of the cases;